

(d) Employment generation coupled with improving employability of the youth is the priority concern of the Government. Government has taken various steps for generating employment in the country like encouraging private sector of economy, fast-tracking various projects involving substantial investment and increasing public expenditure on schemes such as Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) and Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).

Government has also implemented the National Career Service (NCS) Project as a Mission Mode Project for transformation of the National Employment Service to provide a variety of employment related services like job matching, career counselling, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses, apprenticeship, internships, etc.

Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) was launched in 2016 with the objective to incentivise employers for creation of new employment with social security benefits. Under the scheme, Government of India is paying Employer's full contribution *i.e.* 12% towards EPF and EPS both (as admissible from time to time) for a period of three years to the new employees through EPFO w.e.f. 01.04.2018. The terminal date for registration of beneficiary through establishment was 31st March, 2019. The beneficiaries registered upto 31st March, 2019 will continue to receive the benefits for 3 years from the date of registration under the scheme. As on 31st August, 2020, 1.21 crore beneficiaries have been benefitted through 1.52 lakh establishments.

Ministry of Labour and Employment is also implementing PMGKY through EPFO. Under PMGKY, Government of India is contributing both 12% employers' share and 12% share under Employees Provident Fund (EPF), totalling 24% for the wage month from March – August, 2020 for all the establishments having upto 100 employees with 90% of such employees earning less than ₹ 15,000/-.

#### **Social security and welfare benefits to casual workers**

1242. SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is implementing various Acts and schemes to provide social security and welfare benefits to casual workers both in the organised and unorganised sector;

(b) the details of the sectors where the casual labourers are reportedly deprived from their due social status and if so, the steps taken by Government to extend all basic facilities to the casual labourers in the country; and

(c) the details of number of casual/contract labourers engaged during each of the last five years and the current year in organised and unorganised sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The engagement of workers, contract labourers and others is governed by various labour laws which are implemented by the Central as well as the State Governments. In case of any complaint, grievance by any worker, the implementing agencies carry out inspection to enforce various rights envisaged in the Acts. In the Central Sphere, inspections are carried out by the Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM), Employees' Provident Funds Organisation and Employees' State Insurance Corporation for enforcement of various applicable labour laws. Action is taken against the defaulters/violators under the provisions of the applicable labour laws.

(c) The details of number of contract labourers engaged during the last five years in the Central Sphere based on the data of licences and registration certificate issued under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 are as under:—

Year	Total Number of Contract Labourer
2015	8,39,234
2016	9,64,001
2017	11,10,603
2018	11,78,878
2019	13,64,377

#### **Balanced utilization of diesel by farmers**

1243. DR. ANIL AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the continuous increase in the prices of petrol/diesel in the country;